

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Specification at page 5, line 8:

The substrate of the present invention is [suitably] suitable for use in the preparation of a composite membrane for use in a fuel cell. When for use in a fuel cell, the total thickness of the membrane is suitably less than 200µm and preferably less than 100µm.

Specification at page 6, line 11:

2) Perfluorinated or partially fluorinated polymers containing aromatic rings such as those described in WO 95/08581[, WO 95/08581] and WO 97/25369 (Ballard Power Systems) which have been functionalised with SO<sub>3</sub>H, PO<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, PO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, COOH, OSO<sub>3</sub>H, OPO<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub>, OPO<sub>3</sub>H<sub>2</sub>. Also included are radiation or chemically grafted perfluorinated polymers, in which a perfluorinated carbon chain, for example, PTFE, fluorinated ethylene-propylene (FEP), tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene (ETFE) copolymers, tetrafluoroethylene-perfluoroalkoxy (PFA) copolymers, poly (vinyl fluoride) (PVF) and poly (vinylidene fluoride) (PVDF) is activated by radiation or chemical initiation in the presence of a monomer, such as styrene, which can be functionalised to contain an ion exchange group.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1                    3.        (Amended) A substrate according to claim 1 [or claim 2],  
2        wherein the mixed amorphous silica fibres comprise one or more chopped strand(s)  
3        of amorphous silica.

1                    4.        (Amended) A substrate according to [any preceding] claim 1,  
2        wherein the amorphous silica fibres comprise a mixture of both microfibres and